Claims

[c1] A head restraint assembly for an occupant of a vehicle seat, the seat having a seat back and a seat bottom, the head restraint assembly comprising:

a head restraint post including a pair of leg portions and a crossbar portion interconnecting the leg portions, the leg portions being adapted to engage the seat back;

a support member coupled to the crossbar portion and each leg portion of the head restraint post, the support member including a laterally elongated convex surface; and

a compressible pad at least partially encapsulating the support member, the pad including a convex outer surface to provide support for the occupant's head.

[c2] The head restraint assembly of claim 1 further including a plurality of clip portions engaging the head restraint post.

[c3] The head restraint assembly of claim 2 wherein at least one clip portion includes an arcuate cylindrical surface engaging a portion of the head restraint post.

[c4] The head restraint assembly of claim 3 wherein the arcuate surface circumferentially extends greater than 180 degrees.

[c5] The head restraint assembly of claim 2 wherein at least one clip portion is coupled to the head restraint post in a snap-fit

engagement.

[c6] The head restraint assembly of claim 2 wherein the clip portions are spaced apart from one another such that two clip portions engage the crossbar portion and one clip portion engages each leg portion of the head restraint post.

[c7] The head restraint assembly of claim 1 wherein the convex surface of the support member defines a radius ranging from 10 to 60 millimeters.

[c8] The head restraint assembly of claim 1 wherein a thickness of the pad between the convex surface of the support member and the convex outer surface of the pad ranges from 20 to 60 millimeters.

[c9] The head restraint assembly of claim 1 wherein the crossbar portion of the head restraint post includes a serpentine shape.

[c10] A vehicle seat comprising:

(a) a seat back having a frame and a pair of bushings coupled to the frame;

(b) a seat bottom coupled to the seat back;

(c) a head restraint assembly adjustably coupled to the seat back, the head restraint assembly including:

(i) a head restraint post, the head restraint post including a pair of substantially parallel leg portions interconnected by a crossbar portion, each leg

portion being supported by the seat back,

(ii) a support member coupled to the head restraint post, the support member including a convex surface extending substantially along the entire length of the crossbar; and

(iii) a pad being positioned in contact with the convex surface of the support member.

[c11] The vehicle seat of claim 10 wherein the convex surface of the support member is offset from the seat back and positioned near a distal end of the vehicle seat.

[c12] The vehicle seat of claim 11 wherein the support member includes an arcuate wall and a pair of end walls defining a shell, the shell including a plurality of clips integrally formed thereon.

[c13] The vehicle seat of claim 12 wherein the clips are spaced apart from one another to engage different sections of the head restraint post.

[c14] The vehicle seat of claim 12 wherein one of the clips is formed adjacent one of the end walls to engage one of the leg portions of the head restraint post.

[c15] The vehicle seat of claim 10 wherein the pad surrounds the support member.

[c16] The vehicle seat of claim 10 further including a pair of bushings coupled to the frame, each leg portion being slidably supported by one of the bushings.

[c17] A method of constructing a vehicle seat having a seat back, a head restraint post, a support member having a plurality of clips and a pad, the method comprising:

engaging the plurality of clips of the support member with the head restraint post to couple the support member to the head restraint post;

covering the support member with the pad; and

coupling the head restraint post to the seat back.

[c18] The method of claim 17 further including covering the pad with a fabric.

[c19] The method of claim 17 wherein the support member includes an arcuate wall having a convex surface with a radius ranging from 10 to 60 millimeters.

[c20] The method of claim 17 wherein the step of engaging the plurality of clips with the head restraint post includes snap-fitting the clips to the head restraint post.